

**ABSTRACT**

In order to provide an IF counting method for realizing an IF counter with a smaller circuit configuration, an IF counter comprises a countdown IF counting unit 1 for counting frequency-divided IF signals, an IF count time period determination unit 2 for determining a count time period, an IF count upper limit presetting unit 3 for providing the countdown IF counting unit 1 with an initial value, a lower-order m-bit comparison unit 5 for comparing the lower-order m bits of the value counted by the countdown IF counting unit 1 with information preset in the IF count upper/lower limit difference presetting unit 3 and a determination unit 6 for determining whether the count value is within a prescribed range, according to the higher-order (n+1-m) bits of the value counted by the countdown IF counting unit 1 and the comparison result of the lower-order m-bit comparison unit.